(a) what is the total paid-up capital of the Indian Express Private Limited, Bombay and what is the turn-over of the Company per year of last three years;

(b) who are the members of the Board of Directors of the Company;

(c) how many shares each Director holds in the Company;

(d) whether it is a fact that the financial irregularities were noticed during inspection by the Department; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken against the Company and the Directors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The correct name of the company is Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.

The paid-up share capital of the company was Rs. 86.50 lakhs consisting of 60,000 equity shares of Rs. 100 each and 26,500 preference shares of Rs. 100 each fully paid up as per the balance sheet as on 31-3-1983, 31-3-1984 and 31-3-1985.

The turn-over of the company was Rs. 1955.13 lakhs, Rs. 2482.03 lakhs and Rs. 3552.34 lakhs during the years ended 31-3-1983, 31-3-1984 and 31-3-1985 respectively.

Shri R. N. Goenka, Smt. Saroj Goenka, Shri Vivek Khaitan and Shri Manoj Kumar Sonthalia were the Directors of the company as per the latest annual return made upto 30-9-1985. Shri R. N. Goenka was the only director holding 10 preference shares of Rs. 100 each as on 31-12-1986. None of the directors held any equity shares.

The books of accounts of the company were inspected under section 209-A of the Companies Act. The report is under examination. In this context, inspection of certain related companies has also been ordered which is in progress.

1502. [*Transferred to the 19th March, 1987*].

Minimising the increase in Import Bill for Crude

1503. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "oil import bill to be Rs. 5400 crores" which appeared in the "Indian Express' dated the 16th February, 1987;

(b) if so, whether the import bill for crude oil and petroleum products is likely to touch, the highest of Rs. 5400 crores during the financial year 1987-88;

(c) whether the indigenous production of crude oil and petroleum products is not meeting the requirements; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to boost their production and minimise the import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The crude import Plan for 1987-88 has not yet been finalised and therefore it is not possible to indicate at this stage the size of the import bill during the year.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Some of the steps taken to increase the production of crude oil in the country and minimise the import bill include intensification of exploration, use of enhanced recovery tech-

niques, induction of advanced technology and purchase of crude oil and petroleum products on the most favourable terms.

Visit by a Delegation from Qatar

1504. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Qatari delegation headed by Sheikh Rashid visited India recently and sought assistance of India in regard to the setting up of joint ventures such as fertilizer plants etc. for the utilisation of natural gas in Qatar;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed by the two countries; and

(c) if so, what are the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) A Qatari delegation led by Sheikh Rashid Oweida Al-Thani, Managing Director of Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) visited India during January 1987. During the discussions it was decided that a Joint Committee of experts from ONGC and QGPC could study the possibilities of cooperation to identify the long and short term areas of exploration and development of hydrocarbon resources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Bifurcation of O.N.G.C. into small units

1505. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per barrel exploration and operational cost that ONGC and Oil India Limited are incurring in various oil fields of the country;

(b) how does the oil exploration cost in India compare with other oil producing countries of the world especially the middle eastern countries where the exploration conditions are more comparable with India;

(c) what are the reasons for high cost of oil production of ONGC and Oil India Limited; and

(d) whether with a view to bring operational economy Government are considering to divide ONGC into smaller units which would be more manageable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Land taken by I.O.C. on lease

1506. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation has obtained Railway land on long lease in Bidar District of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation had taken on lease a plot of land measuring 5500 sq. ft. at Bidar from the railways in March, 1964, at an annual rent of Rs. 1103/- for